

**Amb Feinstein's Remarks, "Rediscovering America 2012 A
Generation Later" Reception & Exhibit
September 18, 2012, 19:00, CMR**

Good evening. Dobry wieczór!

Tonight we are with two special people for a special event:
The preview of "Rediscovering America," an exhibit by Tomasz
Tomaszewski and Małgorzata Niezabitowska.

The traveling duo, in their rented car, travelled across the
United States during the late spring and early summer. They
shot photographs with and reintroduced themselves to people
and places they first encountered 24 years ago. That was when
these visitors from pre-transition Poland followed in the
footsteps of Tocqueville and Bryce to discover America and
report to the world what they saw.

Their first exhibition made headlines in Poland and in America, where their work appeared in the centennial edition of National Geographic.

You can see some of their amazing photos around the Residence. Painterly works, like the photograph of Wolman Rink in Central Park, to my left.

And works which speak to American eccentricity, like the photo in the Library of a group of guys playing chess instead of taking in the view of the Grand Canyon, which was spread out majestically before them.

A quarter century later, we asked Tomek and Malgosia if they would consider going back. To retrace their steps. To give us an update about 21st century America from the perspective of 21st century Poles. They said yes. And they took on the assignment with the same curiosity and excitement.

I will be seeing the exhibit for the first time tonight with you. In truth, Tomek and Malgosia have spent more time in America during this trip than we have in the last three years. So we are really interested in what they have to show and say – and what we have to look forward to when we return to the States later this fall. Elaine, who is from Scotland; she is especially interested!

The stories of Małgorzata and Tomek are the stories of Poland’s transformation and its success: from the smuggled photos of Wałęsa by Tomek to Małgorzata’s serving as the spokesperson of the first non-communist government. Your life story gives you special credibility and insight, and we look forward to hearing what you have to say!

[T&M speak.]

Elaine i ja powoli szykujemy się do wyjazdu jesienią. I chociaż to jeszcze nie jest pożegnanie, chcieliśmy powiedzieć parę słów do wszystkich naszych wyjątkowych gości.

[Elaine and I are getting ready to leave later in the fall. While this is not yet a farewell, we wanted to say something to all of our special guests.]

Wśród wielu obecnych dziś przyjaciół są malarze, których obrazy wiszą tu na ścianach; kuratorzy, dzięki którym się tam znalazły; artyści, którzy dla nas grali i śpiewali; restauratorzy, którzy nas karmili (*i inni ludzie, którzy nas poili... herbatą*).

[Among our many friends in this room are painters whose works are hung on our walls, curators who helped us put them there, performers who have played and performed for us, restaurateurs who have fed us (and many people who poured us drinks... of tea).]

Że nie wspomnę o rodzicach przyjaciół naszych dzieci,
kolegach z polskiego rządu i biznesu, przyjaciółach z ambasady
i sąsiadach.

*[Not to mention parents of our kids' friends, our colleagues
from the Polish government and business, friends from the
embassy, and neighbors.]*

To all of you, on behalf of Elaine, Jack and Cara, and me,
we say:

[wszystkim państwu – w imieniu Elaine, Jacka i Cary i swoim
własnym – chcę powiedzieć:]

Uwielbiamy to miasto i ludzi, których tu spotkaliśmy.

[We love this city. And the people in it.]

Thank you.